



**The answer to “how” is Yes!**

**Anson County Schools**  
**Anson County, North Carolina**  
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Ms. Georgia Maner, Chief Technology Officer  
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**Who we are**

- **532 square miles in south central NC**
- **25,000**
- **5<sup>th</sup> poorest county in N.C.**
- **3,663**
- **69.31%**
- **17%**
- **58% - 34% - 8%**

**“Collectively, if rural and small town school systems were one district, it would be the largest, poorest, and most racially diverse district in the nation (p. 9).”**



**“In what some argue as the most egregious expression of inequity in education, rural and small town school districts have become an “inconvenient truth” of the American education story.”**

Strange, Marty, *"Finding Fairness for Rural Students,"*  
Phi Delta Kappan 92, 6 (March 2011): 8-15.

## **Value Proposition**

**What is the value proposition of education in a community where the majority have never benefited from the promises of an education?**



***“Some men see things  
as they are,  
and say, Why?  
I dream things that  
never were, and say  
why not! “***

*Robert Kennedy paraphrasing of George Bernard Shaw*



## **The Future Was Yesterday**

- Technology ***“interrupts”*** Poverty
- Building “new” boxes
- ***Free Range Chickens***



## Theory of Action



**What + Why + How = Results**



**The Answer to “How” is “yes”!**



## What are current practices and what are future plans?



### Strategically ...

- **Instructional - Leveraging**
  - Tool, Time, Theory, Teaming, Training
- **Learning**
  - Technology Based Supplemental Programming
- **Human Capital Development**
  - Capacity Building
- **Communication**
  - “Push – Pull”
- **Community Capital /Trust Building**
- **Recruitment**

## Capacity



- |  |  |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Strategic Human Capital Development</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <a href="#">Discovery Education</a></li> <li>– <a href="#">A+</a></li> <li>– <a href="#">Apple</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Strategic Communication Partners</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <a href="#">eChalk</a></li> <li>– <a href="#">ParentLink</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Strategic Community Capital Building</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <a href="#">K-12 Insight</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Strategic Recruitment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <a href="#">SchoolSpring</a></li> <li>– <a href="#">ZipRecruiter</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Strategic Device Partners</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <a href="#">Apple</a></li> <li>– <a href="#">Cisco</a></li> <li>– <a href="#">Smart Technologies</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
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**Is digital learning currently being used at  
all grade levels?**

**“Yes”!**



## **Yes Requires**

- 1. Dissatisfaction**
- 2. Creativity**
- 3. Innovation**
- 4. Imagination**
- 5. Capacity**



## Capacity



- **Strategic Supplemental Programming**
  - TeachTown
  - Renaissance Learning
  - Scientific Learning
    - Fast ForWord
    - Reading Assistant
  - Headsprout
    - Early Reading
    - Early Comprehension
  - Kurzweil (Firefly 3000)
  - SmarThinking
  - Pitsco
  - ClassWorks

**“Yes”**



- **Laptops**
  - 2007 – 0
  - 2012 – 1331
- **iPads**
  - 2007 – 0
  - 2012 – 350
- **Interactive Whiteboard System**
  - 90% Secondary Classrooms
  - 40% Elementary



### How is implementation of digital learning being varied among grade levels?

- Mobile
- Handheld
- Class use
- Day use
- 24/7



### How are professional development and instructional support provided for digital learning?

- **Center piece of Human Capital Development**
  - Device
  - Instructional
  - Administrative
- **Learning Development Centers**
  - Customized
  - Personalized
  - Just in Time not Just in Case



## Capacity



- **Human Capital Development**
  - **Competence**
    - Unprecedented investment in skill, knowledge, and application building
  - **Confidence**
    - Unprecedented investment in guiding, modeling, mentoring, and supporting
  - **Collaboration**
    - Unprecedented investment in reflecting, reviewing, planning, implementing, monitoring, and measuring

**What are past obstacles and challenges to implementing digital learning in your district and how did you address them?**



- **Leadership**
- **Vision**
  - **Demonstration versus acquisition**
- **“Yes”**
- **Teetering on the obvious ...**
  - **Resources**
  - **Priorities**



## What are ways the General Assembly can assist in implementing digital learning?



- **Don't Mandate**
  - Don't be "fooled"
  - "All that glitters is not gold"
- **Work with Federal Government**
  - E-Rate overhaul
- **Be creative – start with "yes" then work to "no"**

**Are there statutory obstacles or other regulations that need to be clarified or addressed?**



- **Permission**
  - Social Media Tools
- **CIPA**
  - Lack of National Common Definition

## Highlights 2008-2012



- **11% to 97% Middle School 7<sup>th</sup> graders scoring a 3 or 4 on Algebra I End of Course Test**
- **32% to 70% Biology students scoring a 3 or 4 on End of Course Test**
- **27% to 55% in 5<sup>th</sup> grade Science end of grade test proficiency**
- **Graduation rate 64.3% to 78.9%**

## 2008 – 2012 Highlights



- **3<sup>rd</sup> grade 38.4% to 65.9% Reading**
- **4<sup>th</sup> grade 40% to 70% Reading**
- **5<sup>th</sup> grade 40% to 64.9% Reading**
- **6<sup>th</sup> grade 41% to 71% Reading**

***"I spent a along time trying to  
come to grips with my doubts  
when suddenly  
I realized that I had better come to  
grips with what I believe.  
I have since moved from the  
agony of questions that I cannot  
answer  
to the reality of answers  
that I cannot escape."***

Thomas Skinner



27

**Thank you**

